assessed potential, potential developed and under development is indicated in Annexure: *[See Appendix 188, Annexure No. 37]*

There is a substantial scope for promoting Hydroelectric projects in North Eastern and Northern regions. A list of hydroelectric project under execution is at Annexure ; *[See Appendix 188, Annexure No. 37]*. The region-wise list of hydroelectric projects in the Central Sector which are proposed to be taken up for benefits during the 10th Plan is at Annexure * *See Appendix 188, Annexure No. 37]* The region-wise list of projects to be taken up in the Central Sector in respect of which survey and investigations are proposed to be taken up in order to enable preparation of DPRs is at Annexure-IV. *[See Appendix 188, Annexure No. 37]*.

In the Southern region, efforts are being made in consultation with the Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to promote hydroelectric projects in the Cauvery basin which could not be taken up due to inter-state river dispute.

Reservation for Infantry Officers

*247.SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Adjutant-General branch has recently issued orders to the effect that 60% of ail general cadre posts of Brigather, Major-General, etc. would be reserved for infantry officers, which has caused serious resentment amongst senior officers of other corps; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for ignoring the claim of senior officers of other branches of Defence Services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernisation of jute industry

*248. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is act that there was a corpus fund of Rs. 150 crores for modernisation of jute industry;

(b) whether the banks were reluctant to disburse this amount to the jute mills under Jute Mills Fund Scheme (JMFS);

(c) whether out of Rs.98 crores sanctioned, only Rs. 52 crores were released last year; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The Governmet of India started a Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme (JMFS) with an approved ceiling of Rs. 150 crores as loan from Financial Institutions (FI's) w.e.f. November, 1986 to cater to the modernisation requirements of the jute industry. All major financial institutions with IFCI as the nodal agency were participating in the implementation of the scheme by lending funds to healthy as well as weak but potentially viable jute mills undertaking need based modernisation of plant and machinery. The scheme was effective till 31.3.95

(c) Loans of Rs.51.73 crores were disbursed by the Financial Institutions till 31.3.95 to 16 mills.

(d) The main reasons for underutilisation of JMFS were (a) nonavailability of adequate machinery at reasonable prices (b) the revision in the rate of interest & (c) high rates of custom duty on imported machinery. However, a new scheme titled "Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)" has been launched w.e.f. 1.4.99 to cater to the needs of modernisation of textile sector including jute.

NTC Units in Rajasthan

†*249. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of NTC units functioning in Rajasthan and the details of profit earned/loss incurred by them during the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken and proposed to be taken for strengthening the NTC units at Byawar and Vijaynagar in Ajmer district?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.